NECC Observer

"The Hunger Games
Very satisfying
A&E, Page 7

Relationship troubles
Write to LLR
LLR, Page 11

It's back.....
And looking very absurd
Back Page, Page 12

March 28, 2012 The Student Newspaper of Northern Essex Community College, Haverhill and Lawrence, MA. • Vol. 73, No. 13

Baseball team's victories

By Bob Horan
Correspondent

The Northern Essex Community College men's baseball team resumed their winning ways Tuesday, March 20, crushing Dean College 10-2 in a game played at Longley Field in Franklin, MA.

After returning home Friday from a successful spring break road trip in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina compiling a 6-2 record, a tired NECC team dropped their first two games in league play Saturday, March 17, versus the University of Connecticut-Avery Point, the second game in extra innings.

This week, the Knights returned to form behind the outstanding pitching of co-captain Keegan Pafford of Portsmouth, NH who threw seven full innings, allowing only six hits and one earned run to the host Bulldogs. Nick Goodin, closed out the victory for the Knights pitching in relief of Pafford, giving up one insignificant run in two innings of work in the runaway victory.

Bob Horan Photo

The baseball team practices their pitching, they recently returned from a trip to South Carolina.

Head Coach Chris Shanahan said, "The team played well and Keegan pounded the strike zone. Goodin is unbelievable out of the bullpen. He could be the leader of a very strong group of relief pitchers."

The team was led on offense by Domingo Cruz (who went three for four, including a triple and a home run.

He finished the game with four RBIs and three runs scored. Luke Reynolds had a double and a triple and also scored three runs for NECC.

Continued on Page 10

College budget in good shape

Article in last issue didn't present the correct facts

By Chantal McGovern
Executive Editor

In the previous issue of the Observer that was released on March 7 in the article titled "Running out of funds," the information presented was not accurate.

The reporter said in the article that NECC is suffering from a budget gap and that members of the student senate were fundraising to end it.

However, this isn't the case and Northern Essex does not have to make up for any gap in the budget.

The student senate fundraiser was for student scholarships.

Also, members of the faculty will not lose their jobs and programs are not going to be closing down due to the condition of the budget.

The student reporter based the article on information provided by a student senate member, which wa incorrect.

According to David Gingerella, the CFO of the college, there aren't any major problems with the budget at NECC.

The state has increased the aid at the college. But, there is a small short fall in revenue and a slight drop in enrollment.

"We need the money we have, but we are doing well. The budget at the college has never been better from my position," Gingerella said. "We will close the year well.

He added that the reserves at the college are better than before.

"We take a stance to what you need and not what you want," Gingerella said.

Students advocate for education

Students around MA come together to ask for increase in aid

By Chantal McGovern
Executive Editor

Outside the MA state house on March 8th all was quiet with the exception of Bostonians guarding themselves against the occasional wind gust.

But, inside the state house were some 400 students around the state there for Advocacy Day for Higher Public Education voicing their concerns to state representatives and senators.

In recent years, the state aid available to students has been cut and with tuition rising, getting a decent education has a significant price tag. Even getting an education from a public institution has become extremely costly leaving students with lots and lots of student debt.

"Low-income students are some of the people who need these opportunities the most because education really levels the playing field," Melanie Mulvey said, a senior at UMass Amherst, whom came from a single parent household, she spoke to the crowd of students

"I have been able to achieve things that my mother could only dream of," she said. "Public education works."

With the deadline to vote for the MA budget coming in April, students told of their stories to work several jobs while also attending college full time.

"When I went to college it was only one hundred dollars a semester," Joseph LeBlanc, an English professor at NECC said. "Yes, there has been inflation since then, even with inflation it shouldn't be that much."

Another professor, Donald Williams, from Middlesex Community College commented that he was able to work over the summer and pay for both semesters of college. Now, students aren't able to cover even one semester of college.

"Public education is vital to a student because it is essentially the foundation that either enables a student to attend college or not," Victoria Czaia, NECC student said.

She also has met and continues to lobby with the senators of her state of NH about the possibility of implementing her Student Education Promissory Act (SEPA) proposal that would cause high school teachers to be more efficient in the classrooms whilst providing students the promise of a public education that is competitive to the local and global markets.

The event was organized by the Public Higher Education Network of Massachusetts, UMass Amherst Center for Education Policy and Advocacy, the Mass Teachers Union, and The Student Advisory Council to the Board of Higher Education.

Students from UMass Amherst, Bristol Community College Spring field Tech Community College. Bunker Hill Community College, UMass Lowell, and UMass Dartmouth were also in attendance.

Chantal McGovern Photo

NECC students, Victoria Czaia and Parker Moody brief themselves prior to meetings at the State House.

Editorial

Support NECC's Top Notch players

Art is one of the best forms of expression when it comes to human emotion. At NECC, there are several opportunities to become involved in student activities and express your inner self.

Everything from being in the dance club to taking a drawing or painting class to writing for the Parnassus is an option for students.

However, we know firsthand that expressing your inner self isn't always a cupcake swirling with chocolate frosting. A lot of blood sweat and tears goes into this. It is not uncommon for students to put hours of work into their art

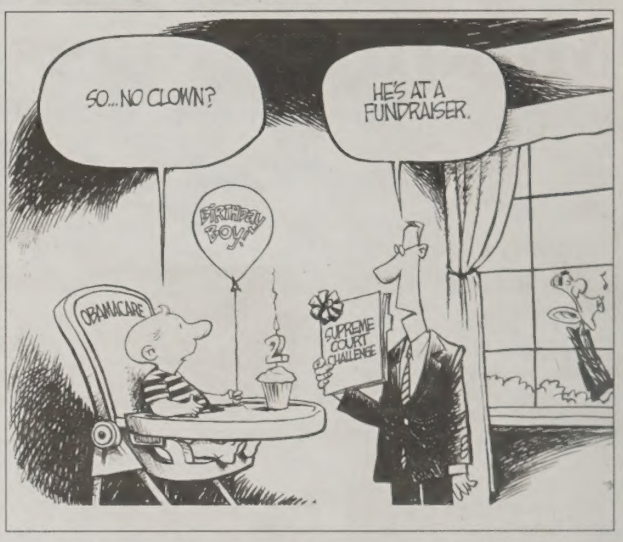
One example of this is the Top Notch Players at Northern Essex. They are one of the most talented, hard working groups on campus. The time it requires to put on the productions they do is incredible. They work for weeks, if not months perfecting it.

This upcoming August, the students in the theatre program have the opportunity of the lifetime to attend the Edinburgh Festival Scotland. The college is one of less than a dozen to be invited to attend.

The theater must raise $20,000 for the trip, but thus far only have raised $7,500. This is where everyone can help the theater go to Scotland by just donating a little bit of money to the group.

They have been diligently raising money through performing shows and holding bake sales.

But, most of all, you can go see them perform "American Gothic; The Poems of Edgar Lee Masters" March 29 at 4 p.m. or the 30, and 31 at 7:30 p.m. in the Chester W. Hawrylciw Theater on the 3rd floor of the C-building.



MCT Campus Editoral

Roaming Reporter

2012 Presidential election: Who will you vote for?

Kevin Eyring
General Studies
"Ron Paul. If he doesn't win (the Republican nomination), he could run as an independent."

Molly Bagley
Writing
"Obama. I'm a democrat and I hate Republicans."

Ali Beauchamp
Business/Health Management
"I'm just not sure. There isn't one particular candidate on the Republican side. I did vote for Obama (in 2008). I'm just not sure."

Sam Smith
Sign Language Interpreter
"I definitely don't like any of the Republicans. But I'm probably not as informed as I should be."

Anderson Lara
Theater
"I don't know. I just don't pay attention to politics."

Photos/Interviews by Andy Robinson

Do you need to contact us?

Address
Rm. C222 Spurk, 100 Elliott Street, Haverhill, MA 01830

Newsroom
978-556-3633

Adviser
978-556-3397

Advertising
978-556-3397

Email
Observer@necc.mass.edu

The NECC Observer reserves the right to edit, condense and refuse all submissions.

NECC Observer

Spring 2012 Staff

Executive Editor: *Chantal McGovern*
Opinion Editor: *Andy Robinson*
News Editor: *Everson Tavares*
Campus Life Editor: *S.J.A*
Features Editor: *Michele Simon*
Sports Editor: *Josh Peltonovich*
A&E Editor: *Michael Litman*
Copy Editor: *Mary Ellen D'Angelo-Lombari*
Asst. Copy Editor: *Melissa Almonor*
Staff Writer: *Lisa Lemoi*
Circulation Manager: *Chantal McGovern*
Lawrence Circulation Manager: *Andy Robinson*
Faculty Adviser: *Mary Jo Shafer*

Have you taken or are currently taken Journalism 1 and would like to be on staff? Then submit your resume to observer@necc.mass.edu

How to submit a letter to the Observer

The Observer welcomes letters from our readers. Letters for publication may be submitted via email, mail or by dropping off the letter at the newsroom, located in Rm. C-222 in the Spurk building.

All letters must be signed and also include a phone number for verification. Email submissions should include Letter to Editor in the subject line or risk not being received by the Observer email system. Please email to observer@necc.mass.edu But, if you wish to submit a letter via-paper: Letter to Editor, NECC Observer, 100 Elliot St., Haverhill, MA 01830

Publication schedule

Issue	Publication Date	Ad/Copy Deadline
#14	April 11	April 9
#15	April 25	April 22
#16	May 9	May 2

The NECC Observer is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press, College Media Advisers Inc., the Columbia Scholastic Press Association, and the New England Press Association.

Opinion

Making a mass murderer 'famous'

Viral video campaign takes internet by storm, then disappears quietly.

By Andy Robinson
Opinion Editor

If you havent seen the "Kony 2012" video yet, then you probably dont have access to the internet.

In a viral campaign that has swept the nation, the charity group, Invisible Children, has sought to make the name Joseph Kony a household name. Make Joseph Kony Famous. In doing so, the public attention on the issue will quicken his capture.

I caught wind of this video the Tuesday after it was released through Facebook. A friend had posted it on their wall saying everyone must watch this. I dismissed it. But then after a couple of days, it didnt go away. It multiplied and multiplied. So curiosity got to me and I took on the rather long video and I was impressed. It definitely condensed the issue, which was expected, but it really played the youth card like no other. What sold me, being a 19 year old college student? The Mumford and Sons playing in the background.

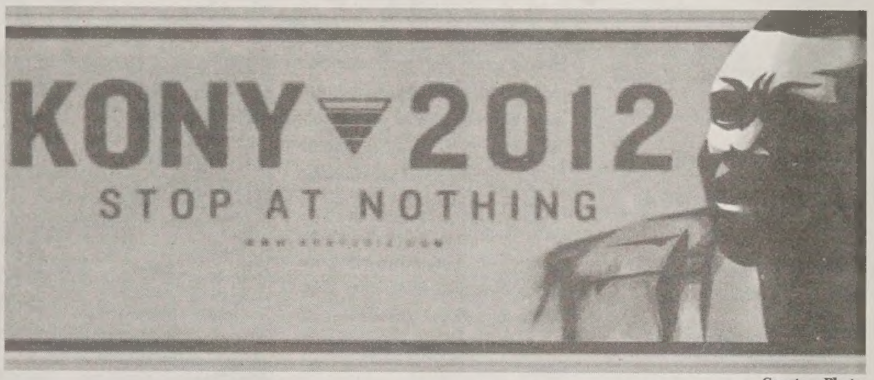
The video opens with Jason Russell (who we'll talk about later) narrating a montage of various people from around the world. He calls the video an, "experiment" and the only way for it to work is if you pay attention. That's asking a lot considering typical Youtube videos are three to four minutes. And about kittens. Or video games. Or movies.

After the release of the video last week, I couldn't help but wait for political pundits to tear it apart. Its a sensitve topic after all, and the media's coverage of the topic must be delicate. So the coverage I saw of it was not really on the issue of this grand humanitarian crisis, but of the video itself and how it exploded all over the internet, and how it did it so quickly. It was a sensation; garnering 100 million views in less then a week. Did you get that? 100 million views in less then a week. But the first critisim of the video I had heard was not from Bill O'Reily or Sean Hannity, but from Comedy Central's own Jon Stewart.

Stewart made a point to emphasize the strange interaction Russell has with his toddler son, outlining generally what Kony has done (raping, killing, and enslaving children). He also pointed out how the media, particularly Anderson Cooper on CNN, seemed embrassed because when they covered the Kony story and other tradegies in Africa, the public wasnt attracted to the issue. It took a 30 minute viral video to get the eyes of the world on Africa.

Then Bill Mahr addressed the issue on his show, saying that, "Raising awareness for Joseph Kony is like voting for Obama in 2008. It's the begining of solving a problem, not the end." He also quipped to my delight that if the video made you shocked to discover that there are such terrible people in the world, "you need to fire whoever's homeschooling you."

After a couple of days of, "Did you see it?" conversations, the attention went away from Kony and to the Invisible Children organization, the makers of the video. It's use of money was questioned, facts in the video, the portrayal of Africa, etc. The real twist though during the public debate as to whether this video is more good than bad, was when it was reported by TMZ that the co-founder and narrator of, "Kony 2012", Jason Russel, was detained for running naked through the streets of San Diego, yelling incoherently and possibly masturbating in public. Yes, there is a video. Invisible Children made a statement about the incident saying that the organizaton, particularly Russell, had been going through a very stressful and emotion time leading up to the release of the video. Russell was not arrested, but hospitalized and is making efforts to get better.



Courtesy Photo

The campaign to make Joseph Kony, an accused mass murderer in Uganda, "Famous" has garnered little conversation or action since the mini doccumentary, "Kony 2012" was released.

Talk about your worst possible move in the process of promoting your humanitarian cause. And the timing as well. So now the question is, does this delegitimize the cause?

But wait, another twist! It was reported that a special screening of the video in Uganda was met with anger and protest. Other screening of the video that were planned have since been canceled. So now the question is, is the video accurate?

I believe in bringing a criminal to justice. You can hate all you want on how hip the video makes it to believe in a cause bigger than your Facebook wall, but there's no way you can be against bringing a mass murderer to justice. There's just no way you can say that. But what I do have an issue with is where everybody thinks Kony should be on America's to-do list. This video wants a mass following, public outcry, donations, celebrity endorsements, government action, people hanging posters up everywhere, and people wearing wristbands. Does Kony deserve the top spot? No.

I don't see why other issues can't garner such following such as Wall Street reform, universal healthcare, environmental efficiency, and ending all the wars in the Middle East. These are issues that need solved here. They all need slick videos featuring Mumford and Sons and George Clooney interviews taken out of context. In no way am I against finding Kony. I want him captured just as much as any other self-righteous hipster. But let's help the United Nations capture him. The United States cannot, as much as we may want to, solve all the worlds problems.

Spring break lost due to workload

Where was my "Beer and the Beach" spring break?

By Lisa Lemoi
Staff Writer

Ah, Spring Break. A time where college students get the chance to venture out and spend a fun filled week of traveling to warm, sunny beaches, dipping their toes into the soft pink sand, and frolicking in the crystal clear tropical oceans.

A time to have frozen, fruity drinks (if over 21 of course) where sugar and tiny whimsical umbrellas decorate the rim. A time to get together with friends, laugh and let loose for a few short days and forget about the stresses and responsibility that college work brings to all of us.

Sounds great, right? I'm so sorry to slap you in the face with reality, but unfortunately for most of us the scenario above was an unobtainable dream. Instead, students worked extra hours (if we had a job), took care of things that have been ignored since January and oh yeah, a little thing called, "Homework." Yep, I said it, homework. However not just a little homework but pages and pages of homework especially assigned to do over the week long break.

Correct me if I'm wrong, but isn't Spring Break supposed to be a time of rest from everything and not just the fact that we don't have to come on campus? Not coming on campus was the least of my concern when not just one professor gives a report but three of them each assigned a three page essay that required research and reading over the break and having them due on the first day back, kind of negates the meaning of the word 'break', doesn't it?

No, I'm not bitter. OK, maybe a little, but who exactly instituted the spring break?

Well, I did some searching and found that it was the Greek and Romans who were the ones that first introduced spring break to the young men and women. According to Coolestspringbreak.com said, "The young men and women of these cultures, particularly those of suitable age for mating, welcomed the return of spring, the season of fertility, in pagan rituals celebrating Dionysus (Greek)/Bacchus (Roman), the god of wine."

Now since our whole reasoning for break these days is not for mating, I found a more immediate reason. In 1936 Colgate University swim coach Sam Ingram brought down his swim team to Fort Lauderdale to train at the Casino Pool – Florida's first Olympic sized swimming pool.

The experience was so successful the coach brought the team down the following year.

Time magazine stated, "…In 1938, sensing a marketing opportunity, the city hosted the first College Coaches' Swim Forum at the Casino Pool; according to one source, by 1938 more than 300 swimmers were competing at the event, and a bacchanal was born. The tradition of college swimmers traipsing to Florida in droves continued well into the swinging 60s. Time Magazine first highlighted spring break in an April 1959 article titled "Beer & the Beach" ("It's not that we drink so much," noted one attendee, "it's that we drink all the time."). This type of partying lead well into the 1990's and spread as far as Lake Havasu in Arizona and up to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Who would have thought that a simple swim training event would lead to such monumental rites of passage?

I wonder what would have happened if during this time the swim team was assigned to write three papers while down in Florida on their break. There is a part of me that thinks not so much "bacchanal" would have been going on. Again, I'm not bitter, a bit of a whiner possibly, but I feel that if Colgate University can take a break from all the stresses of college studies, I'm thinking that maybe NECC could indulge us just a little and give us a real break.

We want to hear from you.

Send letters or opinion columns to the NECC Observer:

observer@necc.mass.edu

Include "Opinion Editor" in subject line.

Opinion

Hunter S. Thompson lives on

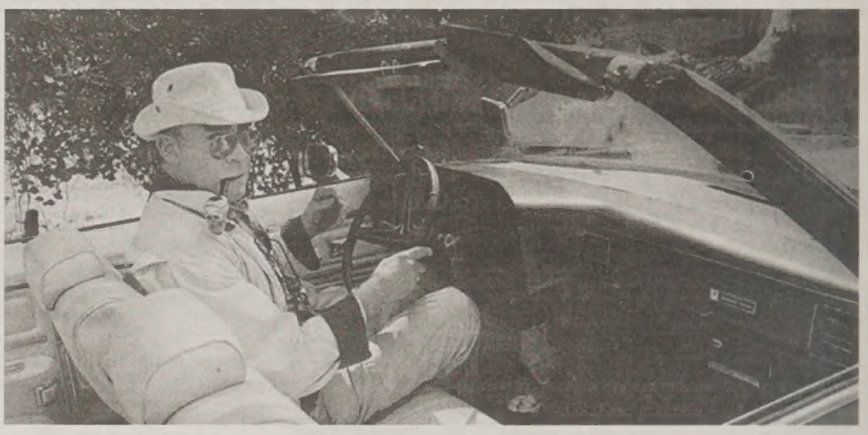
Rebel journalist still leaves impact on modern news-world

BY: MIKE APOSTOLOU
CORRESPONDENT

This crazy world we live in is full of pundits. Not just the MSNBC/Fox News type pundits either. With the advent of social networking (i.e. Facebook and Twitter to name the two biggest) everyone in the world is a pundit. "I believe" "This is what I want to do" "This is what I think of something or someone else". Most of the time these lines are followed up with something so contrite the invisible digital space they take up despises them. Too many people in this current age are absolved to write about something more than actually going out and doing something about it (Oh! the irony of this article in itself).

The late great Hunter S. Thompson was a man who went out and did something about it. He once rode with the Hells Angels and then wrote a book about it. When they wanted money for the earnings of the book he said no. But instead of tweeting/blogging about the absurdity of their claim for money he instead went to a Hells Angels meeting and told them to their face he was keeping the money. One butt kicking later he still had his money and a story to tell his grandchildren.

That is what Thompson did. He lived his writings. He did not sit in the sidelines and then shout from the rooftops his barbaric yawp. He went down into the street like old man Whitman did and experienced life first hand. He wanted to write about drugs and alcohol he did drugs and alcohol. When he wanted to challenge the status quo of the two party political system guess what he did? He ran for office of Sherriff in a county in Colorado as an independent. (Were he subsequently shaved his head so he could call his Republican opponent long haired).

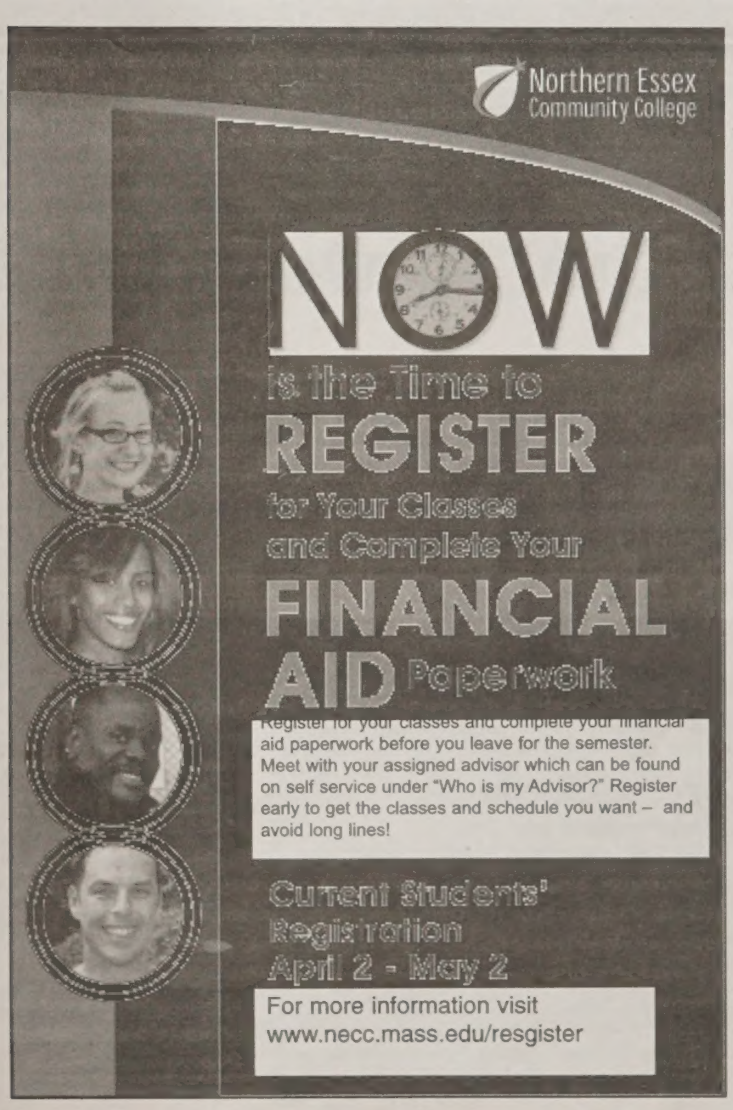


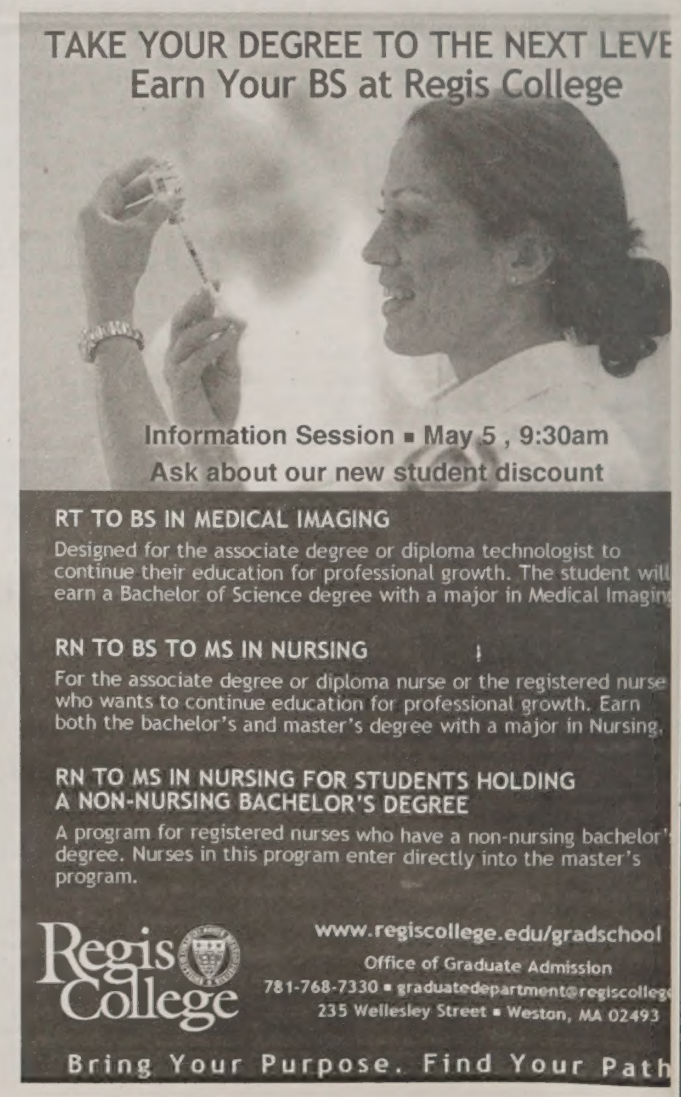
Courtesy Photo

Hunter S. Thompson was known for breaking the rules and, "being" in the story he was he was writing. He's was made famous by Johnny Depp who portrayed him in, "Fear "Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas." V

Hunter's boldness also led to his demise. He always said he "felt free because he knew when life wasn't worth living anymore he could just end it." That's what he did February 20, 2005; by his own hand on his own terms. Sad as it was it was this action that augmented his legacy as a man who lived by his word. He was true to himself and those around him. He lived a genuine life and never let a moment of life worth living go by. And he never tweeted about it.

So next time you want to shout out your barbaric yawp I ask you to climb down from that digital internet based rooftop of yours and join Walt and Hunter on their grassy knoll. Living through something is worth much more than just talking about it.





News

Trayvon Martin lives on

Killing of Florida high school student continues to spark outrage across nation

By Everson Taveras
News Editor

On the evening of February 26, Trayvon Martin, a 17-year-old Florida high school student, was shot and killed by George Zimmerman in the central town of Sanford, Florida.

Zimmerman, a 28-year-old self-appointed watch captain of mixed ethnicity, claims that Martin's death was the result of self-defense. According to Sanford police reports, Martin, who was unarmed, had been walking to the home of his father's girlfriend from a convenience store when Zimmerman followed him after calling the Sanford Police Department for what he considered suspicious behavior.

Despite a police dispatcher advising Zimmerman to refrain from further stalking the teenager, Zimmerman, armed with a gun, disregarded the warning and proceeded to stop Martin. After a brief struggle, in which Zimmerman sustained a bloody nose and head wound according to Sanford police, Martin was shot dead.

The incident that resulted in Martin's fatal death and a public outcry demanding justice began when Martin left his father's fiancé's home, in the gated community of Twin Lakes, during a break in an NBA basketball game on TV to go to a nearby 7-eleven convenience store to buy Skittles. Upon returning to the house, Zimmerman saw Martin and, feeling that his life may be in jeopardy by Martin's presence and very actions (for what he considered suspicious behavior), called the Sanford Police Department.

According to the phone records provided by T-Mobile in connection to the incident that occurred on the night February 26, Martin was speaking on the phone shortly before he was shot dead.

Martin's girlfriend, whose identity remains anonymous, said that Martin expressed uneasiness about a strange man following him. She then advised him to run. She said that she could hear him say, "What are you following me for?" followed by a man's voice responding, "What are you doing here?" From a preliminary report regarding the seconds that followed after the two exchanged words, Martin's girlfriends claims that she heard the sound of pushing and that Martin's phone suddenly went silent. Soon after the line was broken, she attempted to call back but was unable to reach him.

In a recorded conversation between Zimmerman and the Sanford Police Department that began 7:00 p.m. and ended shortly before Martin was killed, Zimmerman called to report Martin's "suspicious behavior", which he described as" just walking around looking about in the rain". The police dispatcher who spoke to Zimmerman tape-recorded him saying, "This guy looks like he is up to no good. He is on drugs or something." According to Zimmerman, he stated that the person he was observing had his hand in his waistband, was holding something in his other hand, and was walking around slowly in the rain looking at houses.

The dispatcher recommended that he not take any action, and informed him that police were on the way. Zimmerman reported that Martin had started running. The dispatcher asked him if he was following Martin and he affirmed that he was. The dispatcher informed him that this was not necessary, saying, "We don't need you to do that." Zimmerman affirmed, "OK" and made arrangements to meet with police when they arrived.

When the police arrived, they reported finding Martin face-down and unresponsive with a gunshot wound in the chest. The police report states that they attempted CPR, paramedics arrived and continued CPR, finally declaring him dead at 7:30 p.m. Statements by the police say Zimmerman had grass on his back and his back was wet. Zimmerman was bleeding from the nose and the back of the head; subsequently his lawyer stated that Zimmerman's nose was broken. The police report does not indicate that Zimmerman required medical attention. Zimmerman asserted self-defense, telling police he had stepped out of his truck to check the name of the street he was on, when Martin attacked him from behind as he walked back to his truck. He said he fired the semiautomatic handgun he was carrying because he feared for his life. Martin was unarmed, and was carrying a bag of Skittles candy and a can of Arizona brand iced tea.

In spite of the severity of the situation, those affected by it and how it was handled, Sanford police did not arrest him based on Zimmerman's claim of self-defense, nor did they administer a drug or alcohol test at the scene. Without sufficient evidence to contradict his assertion of self-defense, Zimmerman was released from the custody of the Sanford Police on March 12.

Zimmerman has not been charged with any crime and is claiming self-defense under Florida's "Stand Your Ground" law, which eliminated a person's duty to retreat when threatened with serious bodily harm or death. State Attorney Meggs says because of "Stand Your Ground" he just lost a case in which a young man was shot to death and the killer went free. "This was a totally unnecessary shooting," he says. Zimmerman's parents, in a letter to a local newspaper, insisted their son is not a racist, and several black residents of the neighborhood where Martin was shot have only good things to say about Zimmerman.

"This police department, how they've handled this case and how we are hearing of other cases, needs a thorough review by the Justice Department," Rev. Al Sharpton said.

Several controversial stories of Zimmerman's account of what occurred have surfaced.

One of the stories claim the police told the Orlando Sentinel, that Zimmerman told them that after he followed Martin, he lost track of him and was returning to his car. Zimmerman reported Martin then confronted him and asked "Do you have a problem?". Zimmerman said he replied no, and then reached for his cell phone. Zimmerman then alleged that Martin punched him in the face, knocking him down, and then began to beat his head against the ground. Zimmerman states that he called out for help while being beat, and that he then shot Martin in self-defense.

Other sources claim that Zimmerman told police Martin had punched him, knocked him down and slammed his head into the pavement repeatedly before he fired the fatal gunshot.

Martin's death has come with a large spectrum of responses that vary from hate-crime accusations to public outcries where bystanders have been raising bags of Skittles and bottle Amazon bran iced-tea in remembrance. Fueled by an outraged family demanding justice, Martin's case has escalated into a national cause. 8,000 gathered to march in Philadelphia memory of Martin, another 12,000 walked out of school in Miami, and President Barrack Obama said in regards to the incident, "If I had a son, he'd look like Trayvon. ... We're going to get to the bottom of exactly what happened". In tribute to Martin, NBA's Miami Heat have endorsed hoodie jackets.

Nominate student to speak at commencement

One of the highlights of commencement each year is the speech by a graduating student who has been selected by faculty and staff to represent the class. The college is now soliciting nominations for the 2012 student commencement speaker and anyone interested is invited to nominate an outstanding student.

To be considered students must be graduating with a grade point average of 3.5 or above. In addition to academic success, contributions to the college and/or the community in general will be considered.

To nominate a student, draft a letter to the student speaker selection committee explaining why your nominee would be a good candidate for student speaker and send it with the nomination form completed to Ernie Greenslade, director of public relations, Room E164, Haverhill Campus by Monday, April 2. In your letter, you should address areas such as the extracurricular activities of your nominee; how your nominee contributed to the college and/or the community in which he or she lives and/or works; and the future educational and/or career plans of your nominee.

While only the completed nomination form and one letter of support is required, nominees can have up to four additional letters of support. Also, we encourage you to include copies of news coverage, special awards or other items of interest that you would like the student speaker selection committee to consider.

The information you submit as well as official transcripts will be considered by a committee of faculty and staff who will make recommendations to President Glenn.

This is a very competitive process so please be sure that the materials you provide reflect the full scope of the individual you are recommending and clearly communicate why this person should be selected to represent the class of 2012.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Ernie Greenslade at 978 556-3862 or egreenslade@necc.mass.edu.

Student of the Month

Two astounding students nominated for service to NECC

By Chantal McGovern
Executive Editor

For the month of February, two hard working students, Santa Reyes Romero and Bobby Fisher, were nominated for Student of the Month that is sponsored by the Student Affairs Committee.

Both were put into a drawing to win a $50 Barnes and Noble gift card.

The faculty members whom nominated them did so for their work and contributions to the Northern Essex community.

To nominate a student for the March 2012 (deadline April 6, 2012), send following information to Ginger Hurajt, Chair of Student Affairs Committee at ghurajt@necc.mass.edu.

Please include the following information

Student's name
Student ID
Nominated by
Title
Division/Work Area
Reason for nomination

Features

Springing to the finish line

Students prepare to move on, or move forward

By Michele Simon
Features Editor

I opened up the door the other day to see a flock of wild turkeys passing through my yard. The males were brazenly displaying their plumage and strutting around, hoping to attract a female's eye. They sauntered across the greening lawn through the apple orchard, and past the flowers. The daffodils and bright yellow forsythia bushes, that mark the end of winter and beginning of spring, were already in full bloom. An unusually warm breeze for March rushed by, tantalizing with its promise of summer. I took in a deep breath and longed to go to the beach but regretfully, like many other college students, headed off for school instead.

Spring may bring us flowers, rising temperatures and warm breezes that take the winter chill out of the air, but for college graduating students spring marks the race to the finish line, and, for all students, a flurry of activities, deadlines, and worry about getting it all done in time. In six short weeks the semester will be over. In that time scholarships need to be applied for, registrations for summer and fall classes need to be filled out and finals are looming. Slipping up on a course now could mean not graduating, or force unexpected changes.

Lola Sota, an NECC student from Methuen, knows how one class can change everything. Last semester she had a terrible experience with a class while studying for a physical therapy related degree. "I switched my major; I just couldn't do it anymore."

Michele Simon Photo

Forsythia bushes are one of the earliest spring flowering plants

"It was that class that just completely turned it around," she said.

She's now trying to take a couple CLEP tests to earn credit for classes. Hopefully, if everything works out she will graduate at the end of the summer.

Summer and fall early registration begins next week. Some students, such as Ashely Hollingsworth of Haverhill, have found registering early and choosing classes wisely is important. "Sometimes they only have classes during a certain semester. I'm taking portfolio class, even though I'm not graduating this year because it's only offered during the spring," Hollingsworth said. Other times the classes may get filled up too quickly, or there aren't enough people and they may be dropped she said.

Choosing summer classes wisely is imperative also, because the drop period for summer classes is very short. I found that out the hard way last summer. My first class was a night class and since the deadline to drop was on the first day of classes, and my classes started after the registrar was closed for the day, it was already too late to drop with a full refund before my first class even began. I missed the first class meeting, went to the second, then tried to drop it on the following morning and by that time it was already too late. I ended up paying for the full class after only attending one day.

Some students don't have that worry though, as they will be not be taking classes until the fall. Hollingsworth is planning on taking the summer off to give herself a little break.

When I ran into her at NECC, she was enjoying the spring-like weather while working on a drawing project outside. "It's been really nice. This has been the nicest winter so far," she said.

With the spring semester ending in a month in a half, she's not too worried right now, but she does try to keep focused on getting her projects done ahead, she said, because "I'll be so consumed with one project, that I'll totally forget the other one until last second. It does happen."

Her one caution is, "Definitely keep your eye on the calendar. Projects will creep up on you, and then you'll say, 'Oh, I've got a week left to do something.' Once they give it to you, it's easiest to do the project right away when they give it to you. That way you're not stumbling at the last minute thinking 'my god, where the hell did time go?'"

She said she usually takes only three classes a semester to try to avoid that whole scenario, so that way she doesn't have such a large workload.

"I'm taking it slow that way I don't get stressed out and I'm more focused on better grades." Working part time has also made it more challenging for her to try and keep ahead.

She's looking forward to graduating in the spring of 2013.

Sota, whose grandfather was an admiral in the Navy, is hoping to finish up her classes and graduate this summer. She has enlisted in the Navy and will be leaving for boot camp in Illinois in August. She would prefer to have her associate's degree as it helps with pay and rank. "It does do a lot, because it takes a while to rank up," she said.

"If I ever do continue to a four year of study while I'm in there, I'll already have my associate's, so I can just go anywhere from there instead of starting from square one all over again."

For now, Hollingsworth, who seems to be taking the spring deadlines in stride, said she's planning to take some time to enjoy the spring.

As I sat with her outside talking to her, a warm breeze blew softly and birds sang in the trees. She told me that her family has a cottage in Little Neck, which is in Ipswich, right across from Plum Island, and one time an eagle flew all the way over there. "It was just sitting in a tree. It was just hanging out. It was really cool."

"I'm going to take some pictures, somewhere nice," she said.

Michele Simon Photo

Ashely Hollingsworth taking advantage of NECC's picnic tables to enjoying the warm weather while working on her class work.

Haverhill Goes Green!

Environmental fair promotes recycling & conserving resources

By Taylor King
Correspondent

The month of April is a notorious time for spring-like gatherings, growth and prosperity. To kick off spring, Haverhill's Brightside, a nonprofit organization run by the city, is focusing on getting Haverhill back to "Green". On Sunday, April 29, the Brightside group is planning an event called the "Haverhill Goes Green!" environmental fair. It will take place in Grand Army Park (GAR Park) as well as the Citizens Center on Welcome Street in Haverhill.

The fair's main goal is to encourage citizens to recycle, and conserve resources, which holds potential to translate into more money for the city. As a rule of thumb, about half of what is thrown away by consumers has recycling potential. The more that citizens recycle, the less recyclables will make it to a landfill, and that means the less the city will pay to dump trash.

Courtesy photo

GAR Park in Haverhill

Haverhill's Brightside will need about 25 volunteers for the event and welcomes participation. Volunteers will receive a free T-shirt.

Many nonprofit organizations are sponsoring or participating in the "Haverhill Goes Green!" environmental fair, like; Northern Essex Community College, Winnekenni Foundation Inc., Clean River Project, Team Haverhill, Haverhill Garden Club, and Tattersall Farm.

In addition, plenty of local businesses are participaing in the fair as well, like; Andino's Pizzeria, 19 Steps Bake Shop, Bert's Beads & Willow Tree Jewelry, Covanta Energy Corp., GEEtrofits, Green Vision Properties, Haverhill's Farmers Market, Next Step Living Inc., Shaklee Products S&T Better Life Resources, Speak Easy Farm, as well as a host of others.

One of the planned events that will be held during the fair is a contest called "Smarter Planet Challenge for Student Entrepreneurs." Working with Merrimack Valley Sandbox, Brightside encourages students up to grade 12 to participate in the contest. Students are encouraged to put in an idea that will strengthen the schools, community or society into action, and will compete for first stage venture funding of up to $500. The theme of the contest is to create a more sustainable and smarter planet for the future and to generate community interest in the "Green" movement.

"Haverhill Goes Green!" is open to the public and will have several activity areas as well as farm stands with fresh produce. People wishing to volunteer can email green@haverhillsbrightside.org to get more information. To learn more about the event you can visit www.haverhillsbrightside.org and make sure to stop by GAR Park on April 29 to support the project.

Arts and Entertainment

'Hunger Games' quells your appetite

Suzzane Collins novel, turns into a great film adaptation

Michael Litman
A&E Editor

Young adult books have always been pushed into being major films. "Harry Potter", "Eragon", "Twilight", and now "The Hunger Games" by Suzzane Colins. While for the most part, they sell really well making millions of dollars. Of course there are some flops like "Percy Jackson" and "Chronicles of Narnia". But this is not the case for "The Hunger Games". Strong Acting, great cinematography, and a moving story, this are some things that make "The Hunger Games" a great film.

I for one have never read any of the books, so I went into the film not knowing too much of the premise except what i was giving to me from the trailers. The plot revolves around Katniss a girl who is forced to participate in the Hunger Games, a tournament involving children between ages 12-18 who must fight to the death to survive. In the film it is the 74th Hunger Games, taking 2 children outside of each of the 12 districts outside the capital city. From district 12 Katniss and Peeta are chosen to participate. From then on, the plot revolves around training for the events, and then eventually being a part of the events. I won't get into what occurs at the tournament to save some spoilers.

The acting in the film is also extremely well done including academy nominees. Such as Academy nominee Jennifer Lawrence, Academy Nominee Stanly Tucci, Academy Nominee Woody Harlson, Lenny Kravitz, Josh Hutcherson and Donald Sutherland. Each actor plays well to their role, creating a character that people can relate to and enjoy watching. That is one of the greatest strengths that this film have to offer.

While the fan base is similar between Twilight and Hunger Games the stories could not be any more different. This story revolves on a character who is strong and willing to do anything to survive. Sacrificing herself and putting herself in the way of death to save her sister. While the beloved mass million Bella Swan (Twilight) revolves on a girl desperate to be loved by the man of her dreams. Katniss is a strong character one that can inspire girls to be strong and independent, as opposed to the fragile and damsel in distress Bella.

At certain points through the film I had issues with the cinematography. While mostly their were certain scenes that were interesting and well executed, others were questionable and far too shaky. While I can understand why the director chose to take that path in the film at moments I felt it was overbearing. Also there are certain moments in cinematography that I was completely blinded by a random white screen.

The plot is centered around the death of children mainly, which could end up with uncomfortable scenes for the audience to watch. Director Gary Ross, depicts the deaths in such a way that it does not make the film tough to watch or feel wrong in watching it. The story doesn't dwell on the fact that this child has died but more so on the fact that these children need to survive and are doing anything possible to go back home.

Courtesy Photo

Katniss (Jennifer Lawrence) and Peeta (Josh Hutcherson) preparing before the Hunger Games

Hunger Games is one of the first big blockbusters to be released in the year 2012, and it does not disappoint. With solid actors to create touching and memorable scenes that people will remember after the movie. As well as a solid plot thanks to Suzzane Colins original plot, and Gary Ross co-screen writing.

The Hunger Games is one movie that should not be missed. After being so impressed by the film I am looking forward to picking up the books.

An interview with Haverhill band

Metal band 'As Tyrants Fall' gets interviewed by NECC student

Henry Lopez
Correspondent

Massachusetts has had quite the legacy when it comes down to its local metal scene, plentyof metal heavy hitters like "Killswitch Engage" and "All That Remains" came out of the state, also bands that have developed pretty big cult followings like "Converge", "Cave In", and "ISIS" paid their dues playing in the local of the area. Even though the area is known for its seemingly endless stream of talented bands the music as of late it has gotten pretty stale, but hope still remains. That hope lies on the shoulders of a local metal band As Tyrants Fall.

As Tyrants Fall is a technical death metal band that hails out of Haverhill Massachusetts. Featuring Northern Essex Community College student Andrew Bell on vocals, Aaron Frotten on bass, Zakk Lias on guitar, and Jake Greenstein on drums, the amount of talent and skill that this 4-piece brings to the table is quite astronomical. Even though it's just recently that the band has started playing shows it was founded by guitarist and main songwriter Lias, and bassist Frotten in 2008.

"Way back in eight grade 2008" said Lias when asked about when the band started.

"You could play guitar and I was like oh man I never met someone who can play guitar before, and I was like we should start a band, and I learned how to play bass" said Frotten.

Greenstein their drummer who they found his ad on craigslist joined them some years later.

"Yes, jokingly at first we thought that he might be a child rapist so we got a little excited because we're into that stuff, but we found out he was a real drummer and he was really talented so we accepted him into the band" said Lias about finding Greenstein online.

Vocalist Bell joined this past December because at the time he was in another band with former As Tyrants Fall rhythm guitarist John Busick. That project wasn't really going anywhere so Busick introduced him to the other members of As Tyrants Fall.

"I joined the band because I knew John's brother Jordan and we were talking one day I told him how I've been singing for a while and I would love to join a band but I couldn't seem to find one," said Bell " and he was like oh my brother plays guitar you should hook up with him and I was like cool we talked on facebook but I ignored him for a while because I didn't want to work with him but I eventually did work with him for like 3 months with one of my friends, but we weren't going anywhere because John was lazy. So I hinted at we should go and work with his previous band and he had this ludicrous idea to merge our two sounds it was the most ridiculous thing in the world, so we just became part of his old band."

Their first show with the new lineup in place was a battle of the bands at Rocko's Bar and Grill in Manchester New Hampshire. They won the battle and got them closer to an opening slot at the legendary New England Metal and Hardcore Festival this April. When asked about the experience of it being their first show and winning the battle of the bands the band seemed to be relatively confident about their performance.

"I wasn't nervous at all since it was my first show," said Bell "we all had great chemistry working together and jamming together that being on stage I didn't think It would make much of a difference and it didn't in fact we were a lot tighter on stage and the crowd went crazy for such a small club and compared to the other bands it was nuts."

It's this confidence also paired up withtheir unique sound that gives them the edge over a lot of the current local bands of the area. The way they combine several elements from different genres is just masterful and it's mostly thanks to Lias and his unique songwriting.

"At first I was making metalcore and that stuff, and then I was like this sounds way too generic, we have to start doing something different," said Lias. "I started listening to other stuff like death metal, and deathcore. Djent first came into the equation when we first met Jake he was listening to a lot of Periphery and got us into that then I was like this is amazing what if I make crazy music with all those elements put together and that's how it came about basically."

They have also been very vocal on the local metal scene and how they feel it could definitely be a lot better. They feel that a lot of the bands are just doing it for the sake of being in a band and not for the music.

Courtesy Photo

(From Left to Right) Zakk Lias, Jake Greenstein, Andrew Bell, Johnatan Busick, and Aaron Frotten are As Tyrants Fall

"Either they have the talent and don't try hard enough, or they just don't stand out in the crowd and they're not going to have any potential," said Bell. "The ones that are good but don't do anything for example there's this local black metal band from New Hampshire the members are in other bands and they both do the same thing, they keep playing the same venue over and over again for no cause and no profit, I mean I don't care about profits but when you look at them doing the same thing over and over again and only releasing like 6 songs and having one of your guitarist draw the album cover with crayons just shows they don't care for what they're doing, and are just doing for the sake of being in a band and that's not what we're doing it for."

As Tyrants Fall have an extremely bright future ahead of themselves and if they continue on the path they are taking they could easily become as big as other extreme metal bands of the region like The Red Chord or Revocation. With the final round of the battle of the bands As Tyrants Fall will be able to once again show t the skeptics that there is still plenty of life New England metal scene.

Arts and Entertainment

21 Jump Street surprisingly good

By Pat Reynolds
Correspondent

Even in our current film climate, which is populated with remakes, reboots, sequels, prequels, and the abundance of schlock produced by studios annually, few were clamoring for an update to "21 Jump Street." The film community's response to the announcement of a reboot was somewhere between tepid and apathetic, even though we live in a culture where just about anything from the past with name-recognition is getting revived, remade, or rebooted, there still didn't seem to be much need for this film.

That's why many, including myself, were surprised to hear positive reactions from early screenings, most of them based on how funny the film was. After seeing the film, I can honestly say that I enjoyed "21 Jump Street" quite a bit.

The 1980's television series about young police officers that go undercover in high school, which is most famous for jump-starting the career of Johnny Depp, was a slightly cheesy, melodrama. The update chooses to play it decidedly more comedic, which is ultimately to the film's benefit.

Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum play Schmidt and Jenko, two immature police officers who were polar opposites in high school, but form a mutually beneficial friendship when they both enter the police academy. However, after a gang bust goes awry for the partners, they are demoted and must go undercover in high school in order to infiltrate a drug ring.

However, high school and teenagers have changed since Schmidt and Jenko were students, and what's cool and who's cool has definitely changed. This allows for Schmidt, who was nerdy in high school, to replay his awkward years in a world where cool kids read comic books and get good grades, it also allows for complete and utter confusion and frustration on the part of Jenko, who has now become what is unpopular.

From the directorial minds of Phil Lord and Chris Miller ("Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs") and from a script/story by Michael Bacall and Jonah Hill, "21 Jump Street" nails a very specific tone of reverence for the genre ("buddy-cop films"), while also realizing the comedic value in many of the conventions and stereotypes that their genre had established.

Miller and Lord have carved out a very interesting niche for themselves in the film and comedy landscape. They've proven to be able to tackle difficult material, and instill their own zany, silly comedic style to whatever they're adapting. First, it was "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs," which was a children's book that they successfully adapted into a really fantastic (and criminally underappreciated) animated film. Here, they bring much of the same comedic style. Every great joke or reveal in "21 Jump Street" is set up and built upon throughout the film. The humor isn't broad, and they refrain from making the easy joke, however they can be childish and silly when the moment calls for it.

When a creative team decides to lampoon, spoof, send-up, or comment on a specific genre of films, there needs to be a certain affinity for that genre that goes along with it. There is also a very thin tightrope that these films must walk, in that they need to play on, and send up the conventions or stereotypes of a genre, while also being able to be an entry in that genre. The films of Edgar Wright ("Hot Fuzz," "Shaun of the Dead") are examples of films that accomplish this, where many tend to fail. "21 Jump Street" is another film that is able to walk that tightrope.

Much of the film's charm is derived from the relationship and chemistry that Hill and Tatum have together on screen. Of the two, Hill does more of the heavy lifting comically speaking; however the real surprise here is Channing Tatum. Often viewed as not much more than a pretty face and some stilted dialogue, he gets to play on that image and his persona as an actor, and shows off some impressive comedic timing. The amount of genuine fun that it looks like Hill and Tatum are having on-set is contagious while you watch this film.

One thing that interested me greatly after seeing the film was the universe that the film takes place in. In the world of the "21 Jump Street" film the undercover program which Schmidt and Jenko are transferred to is being revived from the 1980's, meaning that the events of the original show still happened, and those characters may still be kicking around this universe (which may or may not offer some very cool cameos).

Courtesy Photo

Jonah Hill and Channing Tatum star in "21 Jump Street" as cops that go back to school.

The cast is filled out by Ice Cube, Rob Riggle, Brie Larson, Dave Franco, Jake Johnson, Ellie Kemper, Johnny Simmons, and Nick Offerman. All of them do well with what they're given, especially Ice Cube, who gets to play on the angry, black Police captain "stereotype" in some very funny ways. Franco, brother of James, was also a nice surprise; as he gives a much better performance here than his turn as another popular kid in last summer's "Fright Night."

"21 Jump Street" probably isn't the most interesting or important film you will see this year. You will not leave the theatre with a greater understanding of yourself, or the world around you. It's not that type of film, obviously. However, it's damn funny and in a time when so many comedies miss the mark, that's something to be proud of.

How Do you like them Apples

Alternative Rock singer makes her comeback after 15 years

By Melissa Almonor
Copy Editor

Currently the music female world is dominated by a few leading ladies in each genre. Pop music has the representation by divas like Lady Gaga and vocal god Adele, while country music has America's sweet heart Taylor Swift. Rap music has the pink haired, over the top Nicki Minaj to look up to. Then we have Beyonce who has been representing R&B, practically dominating the last decade. Alternative/ rock music has been missing a representative for quite some time, however, a former quirky outspoken genius is back to take on the challenge.

I've been a bad, bad girl."Anyone remember this, pianist, songwriter, and poet? That was the first line from Grammy award winner Fiona Apple's 1997 hit song "Criminal."

Its been 15 years since her commercially successful debut album "Tidal" had been released. Since then she has released three other albums, still none have been as successful as "Tidal." This probably has to do with the fact that she really does not fit in with the music industry. She is not a fashion icon, never branded herself, not up for acting roles, and is quite simple. She is an artist, feisty and filled with the confidence to step out and be herself. Her music can be considered a mix between jazz and alternative rock. I am happy to see one of the powerhouse house women of the 90's come back. After a bit of time off Fiona is back and as bad as ever.

Fiona Apple, now 34, has recently kicked off her first U.S tour in 5 years to promote her fourth 23 word-long album entitled "The Idler Wheel is Wiser than the Driver of the Screw, and Whipping Cords will Serve you More than Ropes will Ever do."

Apple has never been one to conform to the standards of a lady, nor is she one to be predictable. In 1997 at MTV's Music Video Awards, while accepting the award for Best New Artist she got on stage and famously said, "This world is bull----, and you shouldn't model your life on what we think is cool, and what we're wearing and what we're saying." While critics scorned the songwriter she later responded, never issued an apology but said, "I just had something on my mind and just said it. And that's really the foreshadowing of my entire career and my entire life. When I have something to say, I'll say it."

Although Fiona may not be the most mainstream artist she's defiantly one to look out for. So if you ever feel the need to hear some empowering words, or are just in the mood for something different, look no further than Fiona Apple. Her words in her music will lift you up, make you think, and take you to a whole new place. All three of her albums have ranked as a few of best albums of the 90's and 2000's by Rolling Stone, and Entertainment weekly. Make sure to look out for, "The Idler Wheel...," expected to be released in summer 2012.

Courtesy Photo

Fiona Apple, returns to the scene after 15 years.

Campus Life

Contemporary Affairs club

An open forum for debate and discussion

By Sean Brady
Correspondent

It's just before 12 p.m. on an abnormally summer-like day on the second day of spring. The quad is full of students, some studying, some throwing around a Frisbee, others just taking in the very un-March-like weather. For most of us, soaking up the sun is the ideal way to spend the lunchtime hour, especially when faced with the realization that this weather won't be lasting forever (we'll be back to highs in the 40s by early next week). But for a small contingent of students and faculty, 12 p.m. on a Wednesday means a time for debate, for discussion, and for Daniel Potacki, lamenting on his idea of the worst weapon of mass destruction known to mankind: glitter.

"It gets everywhere. I don't even use glitter and it ends up all over my room," Potacki joked just before calling his club to order on Wednesday. "Putting glitter in a bottle of botulism and leaving it somewhere would be the worst terrorist attack ever."

Potacki is the president of Northern Essex's Contemporary Affairs club, a group that gives a forum for students to discuss just about anything affecting the global community. From current events to politics to social issues to the terrors of certain arts and crafts materials, the range of topics covered in a given meeting are limited only by the clock. For Wednesday's meeting, discussions included Kony 2012, military intervention in Africa, the Pledge of Allegiance, and atheists "unblessing" highways with "unholy water", the latter resulting in one of the more lighthearted conversations of the day.

"Wait, what exactly is unholy water?" inquired one student.

"Are there different levels of water? Holy water, neutral water, and then unholy water?" asked another.

"Maybe it's a binary type of thing, where there's holy water and everything that isn't holy water is unholy water."

"We're getting into pretty deep water," jested Professor Andrew Morse, a long time member of the club.

Snap Debates

The club soon shifted to their real business for the day, an activity they call "snap debates" in which a topic is presented to the group and the members take a position on the matter and then defend their stance in a back-and-forth style of debate. The first topic was in regard to the viral Internet campaign, Kony 2012. Members were asked whether or not they agreed with sending U.S. troops into Africa for humanitarian purposes.

"Before we begin, can someone elaborate on what the Kony 2012 campaign is, as some of us might not be familiar with it," requested club advisor Stephen Russell.

After a brief introduction from Potacki, the debate was on. Most members, including Potacki and Morse, sided on supporting military intervention.

"There is no peaceful, lasting resolution. Any meaningful change can only be met through force," said the club's president.

"And there's a long legacy of neglect on the part of western powers in Africa," contended Morse. He and others advocated at least providing military advisors to the local armies.

A vocal minority, led by Professor Stephen Slaner was quick to retort. "Andy, you're old enough to remember how Vietnam started."

With the comparison to Vietnam, the discussion intensified with both sides vehemently defending their points. Sending in advisors would only further antagonize the situation was one argument, another, more cynical position being that the United States would never send troops for humanitarian purposes unless there was something else to gain. The debate continued, uninterrupted for about 40 minutes before coming to a close with 20 minutes until adjournment. A newer face to the group, Mary Hanewich, a human services major, was curious to know where everyone stood on the Pledge of Allegiance.

"When's the essay due?" laughed one student, possibly in regard to the radical shift of topic.

Hanewich laughed back, "It's overdue," much to the delight of the rest of the club. Nevertheless, a new topic was found and a new debate raged on for the remainder of the meeting.

More than just discussion; an opportunity for first hand learning

Dr. Russell, who is also the chairperson of the Global Studies department, has been the club's advisor since 2003. "[Contemporary Affairs] is a place for students to become informed and then form their own opinions," said Russell. "It's an opportunity to make sense of the world and what's going on it."

In addition to weekly meetings, Russell and the club also play host to guest speakers including congressmen and women, state representatives, mayors, and other public figures. Next month the group is sponsoring a visit from Dr. Franklin Chang Diaz, a Costa Rican-American who is the first naturalized American to become an astronaut, as well as another from Haverhill mayor James Fiorentini.

Earlier in the semester, Contemporary Affairs also sponsored a voter registration drive and a soap box forum in the Spurk lobby. The event was a success with all of the registration forms being filled by non-registered voters within the first 15 minutes. Students were then encouraged to take stand on the "soap box" (a wooden pallet provided by Russell) and voice their frustrations, with many students and faculty unaffiliated with the group letting their voices be heard.

Russell also organizes an annual field trip for the club. This year a handful of students traveled to New York City and stayed in a hostel in upper Manhattan. Events included a visit to Ellis Island, the Statue of Liberty, the U.N., and the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

The group continues to promote awareness and a forum for students to learn and educate their peers. "It's an asset to the school," said the club's vice president Marissa Schroeder. "It's an outlet for the students opinions to be heard and discussed and not judged by faculty or other students.

Upcoming events for Contemporary Affairs Club

WEDNESDAY MARCH 28, 12:00, Room C-106: Dr. Ligia Domench will give a presentation on Puerto Rico

WEDNESDAY APRIL 4, 12:00, Room C-106: Health Care Reform: Where Are We?

THURSDAY APRIL 5, Field Trip to Boston: Supreme Judicial Court and State House. Leave 9:00, return 4:15

TUESDAY APRIL 10, 9:15, Room C-118: Haverhill Mayor James Fiorentini

WEDNESDAY APRIL 18: 12:00, Room C-106, Space Policy discussion

MONDAY APRIL 23: Dr. Franklin Chang Diaz, Costa Rican astronaut, 12:00, Room TC-103B

Students to be in theater festival

A dozen Northern Essex Community College students will perform an original adaptation of the play "American Gothic; The Poems of Edgar Lee Masters," on the Haverhill campus this month and in Edinburgh, Scotland in August at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Open to the public, the Haverhill performance Thursday, Friday and Saturday, March 29, 30, and 31. All performances will begin at 7:30 p.m., except for the Thursday performance which will begin at 4 p.m., in the Chester W. Hawrylciw Theater on the third floor of the Spurk Building on the Haverhill campus, 100 Elliott St.

"This should be a life changing experience for all involved," says Jim Murphy, NECC Theater professor.

This group of theater and music students, many of whom have never traveled out of New England let alone to the British Isles, will participate in the festival as part of the college's study abroad program.

Tickets are $8 for students and seniqr citizens and $10 general admission. Tickets can be purchased at the door or through mvarts.info

The cast and crew, who are all members of the NECC theater troupe, the Top Notch Players, along with theater professors Susan Sanders and Jim Murphy, will spend 12 days and 11 nights participating in the Edinburgh Festival where they will perform "American Gothic; The Poems of Edgar Lee Masters," four times as part of their involvement in the festival.

Upon completion of the trip, the students will receive three college credits through NECC's study abroad program.

Ranging in age from 18 to 40, the student actors will juggle multiple roles and characters using songs and dances from the mid-1800s to the early 1900s as transitions. This is an original adaptation of the play.

NECC is just one of less than a dozen colleges invited to participate in this intercollegiate theater festival.

It has been the responsibility of the theater group to raise $20,000 for the trip. To date, $7,500 has been raised through theater performances, and bake and book sales. The Top Notch Players, who will attend the festival August 3 through the 15th are accepting donations. Donations can be made by contacting Susan Sanders at ssanders@necc.mass.edu or Jim Murphy at jmurphy@necc.mass.edu

Courtesy of NECC News

Sports

Baseball Player of the week

Pat Parker was chosen NJCAA DIII player of the week

By Josh Peltonovich
Sports Editor

One of our NECC Knight Baseball players was chosen NJCAA division three player of the week for the week of March 21, 2012. Pat Parker is formerly a Merrimack N.H. resident and graduate of Merrimack high school who currently resides in Wilmington Ma...

I asked Pat how long he has been playing baseball, Pat replied "I've been playing baseball my whole life since I was eight or nine."

About being chosen Pat said "I was surprised a little bit because there's so many talented players out there."

Pat is a freshman who plays third base regularly and is also the backup catcher. Pat's favorite team is the Red Sox but when I asked him if he could play for any major league team he said, "San Diego Padres, it's a beautiful place with warm weather."

I asked Pat if he thinks he will be chosen again as player of the week his response was "I'd like to think so." Parker was unstoppable offensively in their eight games last week. Parker's batting average was an outstanding .575 (15 for 26) and he also acquired four walks.

He legged out six doubles and bated in 14 RBI's and scored three runs of his own during the week. I asked Pat if we are gonna see the Knights in the championship game this season he said, "it's defiantly the goal." I also asked Pat if baseball is a passion or life long journey, he replied "I want it to be a life long journey but I enjoy playing baseball everyday."

Finally I asked Pat if he would be hitting any home runs this season since that's the one thing he wasn't able to accomplish last week when he was in a league of his own he said, " Yeah well maybe."Keep up the good work this seasom Pat.

"I want it to be a life long journey but I enjoy playing baseball everyday."

Pat Parker

photo by Sue MacAvoy

Pat during a game last week.

Big money but it's a small market

By Marco Luisi
Correspondent

Boston, New York, Los Angeles, Miami, Detroit, and Chicago.All of these Cities are what would be considered a "Big Market" city in any professional sport. Other cities like San Antonio, New Orleans, Milwaukee, Columbus and Phoenix are considered

"Small Market" cities in sports. This may come as a surprise to most considering that all of the small market cities here would be considered pretty big and relevant in the U.S if you asked somebody on the street. In recent years, professional athletes have taken a particular liking to heading to the bigger cities like Boston, New York and Los Angeles to be in the national spotlight more and receive the greater attention of the media.

This, in turn, is killing the smaller market teams who don't have as much attention from the general media or big television networks and don't stand a chance in pitching an offer to a player when there up against a big city on the other end. There are examples of this all over sports recently. Lebron James leaving Cleveland to go to the Miami Heat along with Chris Bosh leaving Toronto to do the same.

Carmelo Anthony leaving Denver and Amare Stoudemire leaving Phoenix to join the New York Knicks. Carlos Boozer leaving Utah to go to the Chicago Bulls. And that is just the NBA, if you look at the MLB you have Carl Crawford leaving Tampa Bay to come to Boston, Prince Fielder leaving Milwaukee to go to Detroit and Albert Pujols leaving St. Louis to go to Los Angeles. The NFLhasn't really had this problem as football is such a nationally loved sport that no matter where a player goes he is bound to be in a city with a solid fanbase.

The NHL has avoided this problem as well with the exception of Brad Richards leaving Dallas to join the New York Rangers, Ilya Kovalchuk leaving the Atlanta Thrashers to join the New Jersey Devils and Rick Nash advocating to leave Columbus but was never traded. The biggest problem with this is that all the players I've named here are all the faces of there respective former franchises, and are leaving to put themselves in a greater national eye in need of attention.

The NBA has become like a high school gym class, where all the good kids get on one team to blow out the kids that aren't as good, instead of spreading out and each star having his own team, they all have begun trying to convene together to gang up on the rest of the league.

All the while, the word "team" keeps showing up. A team is not defined by two or three players that carry the whole load, it's a group effort supported differently by each player on the squad, all of these now super teams have had on large problem still, depth. Because no one, no matter how good you are, can play the whole game.

So when the big moment comes and your two or three superstars are exhausted because they've played more than anyone all game, who are you going to look to for backup?

Continued from Page 1

NECC had single runs in both the fourth and fifth innings. In the fourth, Manny Cabral singled to left, stole second base, advanced to third on a wild pitch, and scored on a ground ball by Matt Faia. In the fifth, Cruz tripled and scored on a wild pitch. In the meantime, Pafford kept Dean at bay and off the scoreboard.

Finally, in the seventh, the flood gates opened and the Knights put the game out of reach. The hot hitting middle of the order, Reynolds, Cruz, Pat Parker, Faia and Tyler Johnson knocked around the Dean pitchers. Thus far, all five players are batting over .340. Reynolds hit a triple to start things off. Cruz singled to score Reynolds. Then, Parker singled. Parker and Cruz advanced on a wild pitch, while Johnson walked. Faia was hit by a pitch and got an RBI for his trouble. David Cusick singled in Cruz, and the rout was on. Pafford finished the seventh without giving up a run and Goodin mopped up in the eighth and ninth to secure the team its first victory in conference play. This game bodes well for the rest of the 2012 season. If the staff continues to pitch well, it has the bats to get them into the playoffs again this year. Good Luck to Coach Shanahan and the rest of the men's baseball team.

Notes: Congratulations to Pat Parker. he was named the NJCAA Division III player of the week.

Upcoming Games: The Knights open their home season with a doubleheader versus Bunker Hill, Sunday April 1st, at 12:00 pm. Saturday, April 7th, NECC hosts Quinsigamond at noon in another doubleheader. Mark your calendars and come on out and support the team.

photo by Sue MacAvoy

Coach giving the team some pointers during a practice

Love, Lust and Relationships

The interesting game of pursuit

Go after the ones you like, stop if they aren't interested

By S.J.A
Correspondent

The element of pursuit is a very intriguing thing. It was brought to my attention recently that, perhaps, the art of pursuit may be lost in our current generation. With constant distractions and endless ways to be evasive and smothering all at the same time, it's no wonder so many people these days are single.

Forever it took me to finally find someone. I often tell younger girls, who seem to be happy yet envious of me and my relationship, to sit tight. I have dated, texted, talked, walked, flirted, hooked up, met, fixed up, dumped, ignored, chased, and pined over countless suitors. It's not easy. Trust, I've been there.

Just last week, a fellow classmate of mine finally opened up about another classmate that she had been "talking to."

He played his game, the usual game, of smother and resistance and left my classmate perplexed. Why do we do this?

If we are into someone, if we find someone attractive and intriguing, why do we have to play games? I cannot place the blame on men only, considering I'm sure women have their own motives as well.

Perhaps its a sign. Maybe if games are being played its a sign that it's just not right.

I can recall how hard my boyfriend chased me. It has become a joke between us now, but I'm still flattered at how persistent and relentless he was at winning me over. We never played games. I never acted like I had something better than him to do or be with, and he never made me feel like he was bothered by calls, texts, and questions. Kinda the way it should be, right?

> **"Life is too short to waste your time Facebook stalking someone who's not interested.**

More recently I met an older man, a widower, that was looking to date again. He loves to dance and be social and is looking for a nice women to share his life with. After telling me this, I immediately thought of another customer of mine (I'm a waitress) who was telling me that after 35 years of marriage she and her husband have split and she, too, is ready to date again as well. I mentioned my widower customer to her and she to him and they both seemed interested. He's planning on dropping by her flower shop, pick up a bouquet, and converse with her without her ever knowing who he is. No pressure. Totally casual. But he is 100% pursuing her.

I thought how amazing that is. How cool it is to know that at any given moment someone might be so intrigued by you, so interested that he/she makes conscious efforts to go out of their way to cross your path without you ever even knowing? That guy that you bump into at the gym all the time might be planning it that way.

My boyfriend says he did the same with me. He knew my habits. He knew when I would be on Facebook, run to perfectos in the morning, and what time I'd be getting to work.

He'd time his arrivals perfectly, guaranteeing our paths would cross a couple times a day. Even now, a year and a half later, I'm flattered.

So perhaps my widower friend is on to something. Maybe my boyfriend did the right thing too. If you want something, go after it. Chase it. We need to learn that things do not fall in our laps. We have to stop playing all these dating games that we think we need to play. Waiting a few days to call, not texting back right away, or seeming too busy to date is ridiculous.

Pledge and promise. If you like someone go after them. Make it known. I guarantee you'll get a positive response.

If not, move on. Life is too short to waste your time Facebook stalking someone who's not interested.

Dear LLR

Dear LLR,

The guy I was with for a few months recently broke up with me. My heart has been broken into a million pieces. I can't eat or sleep and when I do sleep all I do is dream about him.

I saw on Facebook that he is already with another girl and I honestly can't believe it. He belongs with me.

Can you tell me how I can get him back? I can't live without him

Sincerely,

Heartbroken in Haverhill

Dear *Heartbroken in Haverhill*,

Does this man provide you with oxygen, food and warmth? If the answer is no, then you indeed can live without him. You want him.

It appears you have fallen for a man whom fits the definition of a player. He used you for what he wanted, you got too intense and he dumped you. Now he is with someone and chances are he is using her too.

If he really loved you, he wouldn't have dumped you under any circumstance.

Honestly, you didn't love him either. You were/are so caught up in the idea of having a boyfriend that you have fallen in love with the idea of your ex.

At this point in your life, the best thing for you to do is to focus on yourself. The most important relationship that you will ever have in your life is with yourself.

Judging by your letter, you haven't been good to yourself. How do you expect others to treat you, if you aren't good to yourself?

So, wipe the tears off from your face, and eat something. It is going to be difficult for a long time, but one day years from now you will look back and laugh at this.

Sincerely,

LLR

Dear LLR,

A lot of people I know are getting married. This makes me wonder, how young is too young to get married?

Sincerely,

Confused in Methuen

Dear *Confused*,

We have noticed this as well and it seems as though a society, which suffering from commitment phobia is now marrying more often.

Now, there isn't a specific age where someone should get married. It is all based on maturity. Also, it is based on what people want and need to get out of life.

Some people want the stability of being married, whereas some desire to go on club crawls and have lots of one night stands.

However, in certain, actually most cases, couples shouldn't get married at say 19. They should wait until they feel they are in a stable period of their life.

Plus, in life things happen, people fall out of love and their idea of love changes.

There is actual research that proves the person we need when we are twenty changes by the time we are thirty.

We need to be realistic when it comes to getting married and think with not just our heart, but with our head as well.

Ultimately, though, if a couple that is 19 wants to get married, it is their own decision and we shouldn't show them graphs and statics warning them how often marriages end.

Send us your dating questions and dilemmas at LLR at observer@necc.mass.edu

Horoscopes

Today's Birthday (03/28//12). Everything starts to make sense, and you understand the changes you want to make for success and happiness. There's plenty of room for improvement. Plan your alterations out well before taking action. Impulsiveness can have permanent repercussions. Get support, and go for your dreams.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) - Today is a 7 - Whatever you need, you can learn. Your concentration is especially keen, and things are fun. Allow ideas to gel. Review notes. Avoid daydreams and distractions.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is a 7 -- Spending could come easily for the next few days, so keep an eye on the budget. You have tons of profitable ideas, so keep in action. Shake, rattle and roll.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is an 8 -- Hold off on travel for now. Meditation delivers insight. Feel the undercurrent of emotion. Ask advice from an older, wealthier person. Be respectful, and stay true to yourself.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is a 7 -- Slow down and contemplate. Clarify your direction, and copy the itinerary so others get it. Include a budget. Save up and complete projects so you can go.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) -- Today is a 7 -- Socializing takes the forefront, whether networking at meetings and parties, through social media, commenting publicly or participating on teams. New doors open.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 7 -- Consider new opportunities over the next few days. They could include a test or challenge; you're up to it. Stick to what you know. A partner helps.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) - Today is a 6 -- If anyone can enjoy the ups and downs of today, it's you, Libra. You may be interrupted often by others and even yourself. In the end, things work out, and you get a morale booster.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) - Today is an 8 -- Today may feel hit and miss. Celebrate victories, and learn lessons from defeats. You gain experience points and move up to the next level. Call it a win.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is a 6 - Consult with experts over the next couple of days. Partners hold the keys to strategy. A bolt from the blue takes you by surprise. Wait to decide, and consider opinions.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is an 8 -- Put the pedal to the metal, and complete projects without delay. Don't worry about the money. Conserve resources and stay home. Get into a workaholic phase.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) -- Today is a 6 -- Love is a wondrous thing, and it's getting more intense. Harness this energy to accomplish projects you're passionate about. In case of doubt, trust your intuition.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is an 8 - Today you can discover new stories from your past. Dig deeper and fertilize your family tree. A surprise discovery allows you to see yourself in a new light.

Courtesy of MCT Campus.

NECC

ABSURDER

Actors go hungry

Movie bombs in theaters, only making $15

Lose weight

By just having cake and not eating veggies

Learn to be arrested

With the Oscar winner turned political prisoner

The False Newspaper of Northern Essex Community College, Haverhill and Lawrence, Mass. • HAPPY APRIL FOOL'S DAY

Get ready to drool

The next Bachelor causes a frenzy at NECC

By Emma Italian
Awesome Supreme Executive Editor in Chief of not factual information and media

Love, heartache, drama and vengeance will be in the air during this upcoming season of The Bachelor", which is to take place at NECC, starring many students, local residents and washed up celebrities.

Even better the new Bachelor has just become available on the market as he just left the joy of his life, Joy. As after leaving his daytime talk show in November, Regis is now on the hunt for a new flame to relight his flame.

"The great thing about this place is that it is one stop shopping," Regis said. "There are woman of all ages. Those right out of high school, mothers and grandmothers.

"I will never have to resort online dating again. The last time I did that whole online dating thing, I ended up going out on a few dates with men and I didn't know it until later."

Recently, auditions were held in downtown Haverhill at the bus station, where thousands of people gathered.

Despite being born nearly 81 years ago, the women and men alike admire Regis and his bright white smile. Plus, word around town is that he looks about 40, according to women that are our age, whom also know about all his monetary assets

Also, a particular visibly pregnant 24 year old, woman by the name of Snooki seemed to be extremely interested in being on the new season of the show as well.

"He made like a billion dollars on that live with blonde girl show," Snooki said while rubbing her stomach and chewing gum. "Plus, my baby needs a man that can count as three things, a father, grandfather and great grandfather.

"This will be the smartest thing I ever like did. I am going to be rich (Expletive deleted).

NECC students seemed to be interested in Regis as well or rather his money.

"You know I just want a little bit of money," Ashley DoN, an NECC culinary arts major said. "So I am going to act like a crazy psycho stalker and hopeful he will pay me to leave. It is a win-win situation."

Kelly Ripa was present in the lines of the auditions as well.

Giving credit to where credit is due photos

This rose will go to one lucky lady at NECC.

"No I am not auditioning. What is wrong with you?!?! This isn't the line to subway," she muttered flipping us the bird.

The next season of 'The Bachelor" will air in soon, but probably never, since the show stinks.

Where was the pizza?

The celebration of the president's vanity

By Andy Robertson
Proctologist

Northern Essex Community College celebrated the President's inauguration this past Friday that was met with much forced thunderous applause, although no one recognized the person claiming to be president.

The inauguration, previously scheduled for late April, was moved quickly to this past Friday, no doubt due to the good weather.

NECC's Press Secretary said, "Yes, the nice weather we had prompted the President to move the inauguration sooner. He did seem rather overexcited if you ask me. For instance, instead of buzzing me on the phone, he ran out of his office waving those kids clapper toys. Where he got those, I don't know. You can imagine the look on my face!"

The NECC inauguration opened with a 90 minute Eddie Vedder solo of just pure hymning, followed by some slam poetry by local Newburyport artists. During the entirety of the inauguration, the President sat on a basketball bean bag chair, elevated so that he was above all the selected councilman that joined him on the stage.

The Mayor of Haverhill kicked off the 11 speeches. He said, "Earlier today, I saw a sign on the Town Hall bulletin board offering free pizza to people who attend this celebration. I have come here today, to find that pizza, but have found none. I have been here for four hours, and I have seen no pizza. No Pizza, at all. None. Zero." The Mayor was then escorted off the stage.

When it was finally time for the President to give his inauguration speech, he was nowhere to be found. It took security about 45 minutes to find him huddled up underneath his desk muttering the words, "Am I popular now?"

When the President pulled himself together, he walked onto the stage to thousands of gazing eyes, wondering when this would all end. After a long look out into the crowd, The President said, "As I stand here, proudly, in front of all you, who came here voluntarily, I think about all the wonderful things this college has done."

The speech started out on a sentimental note, but then drifted to Nicolas Cage quotes and how George Clooney is his role model.

"The President was then given a swede tote bag. Inside: a Blu-Ray copy of, "Baby Geniuses 2", a 50 dollar coupon for the Checkered Flag Indoor Karting center in Bradford, and a hoodie.

The ceremony ended with a 3 hour firework performance. Yes, it was very illegal.

A student searching for free food at the event said, "I could have sworn he was president last year or that he was that guy from 'Two and a half men'."

Swim meet

By Emma Italian
Awesome Supreme Executive Editor in Chief of not factual information and media

The much believed NECC Fins will be meeting on April 1st by the swimming pool, which is located by the Kenoza lake because it consequently is the lake.

The fins are seeking new members to eventually take them to the Olympics, but this day probably won't happen because the members of the Fins have yet to learn how to swim.

Although, they have had some practice jumping in puddles, they still cannot swim in the kiddie pool.

They also have observed several fishes swimming to attempt to learn to swim. However, this hasn't worked because even though they are called the Fins, they don't have any fins.

Thus, they are seeking an individual, whom is caring and will guide them in this learning process.

Most importantly, they want a person, whom will not let them drowned. This person won't be paid because well, the money raised from selling Girl Scout cookies has gone to buy more Girl Scout cookies.

Cash P signed!!!

By Bob Waltzmen
Not your average pizza deliver

Local legend Emcee CASH P has just recently signed with Shady Records.

The barely known rapper from Kingston N.H. debut L.P. "The battle of yin and yang" caught the attention of many respectable record labels without even trying, they just could sense his talent

. Word is such greats as Nas, Jay-z and Wu Tang Clan were just some of the people interested but Cash went with Shady because they are long lost brothers from another life.

When asked why Cash Replied "Well it seemed like the best fit, I mean who doesn't know who Eminem is and Slaughterhouse is really holding it down in the game right now."

Cash has many affiliations in Hip-hop currently working on a verse for P Rovah "the dukes of hazard" and being a part of Starpower Nation. His home boy Jaz (leader of the new school) keeps it on Lock down in RI.

Then of course being a former member of the group "Pale Poets" with Self Con and Deuz Paid.

When he was asked about the group he said, "Well Africa and I were making tracks like everyday sometimes two or three at a time. That was a real fun part of my life I got to sit back and learn from some skilled people and just tried to pick their brains to learn any and everything I could."

The media is in frenzy with the news of his recent engagement to DJ Doxsey. About the marriage Cash said this, "I've known Ally for a while and we both just really love each other it's on some other level, I mean I just trust her and respect her so much and not to mention she the most beautiful young women in the world."

The wedding date is set for July 4, 2012 and will be one for the ages with the two of them preforming live at their own wedding many other Hip-Hop acts.

His album will hit store shelves August 7 2012. About the whole situation Cash Said "The sky's the limit baby and ain't nobody stopping me."

He will be performing at many local places including; IHOP, under several bridges, at Kenoza Lake and at the NECC bus stop.

Disclaimer: NONE of the above stories are true. This production was brought to you by the genius talented minds of The Observer Staff. We would like to say in the words of Sheldon Cooper, Bazinga!